



Census 2000 Announcements for Congregations

**This announcement is suggested for
use during the week of March 19, 2000.**

Our community is one of tens of thousands taking part in Census 2000. By taking part in the census, we send a signal to government and business leaders saying, "This is who we are and this is what we need." Our young parents will inform them about children getting ready to enter the school system. Our older neighbors will alert them to the growing demand for health services. And by taking just a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire, our working-aged adults will tell a story about this community's fundamental strengths and basic needs. If we don't take part, we have nothing to say.

If you have not already received a census questionnaire, one will be delivered soon. I urge you to look for it, fill it out and return it quickly.

**This announcement is suggested for
use during the week of March 26, 2000.**

As I mentioned last week, Census 2000 is under way.

Here are five reasons why you should fill out your census form:

1. The census helps our community thrive by providing valuable information for planning programs and services, including schools, hospitals and roads.
2. The census helps us get assistance in times of need. When tornados, earthquakes or hurricanes hit, the census tells rescuers how many people will need their help.
3. The census makes government more responsive by telling government leaders who we are and what we need.
4. The census numbers help industry locate potential markets, and businesses are better able to produce the products and services you want.
5. The census creates an important record for you and your family. Although the census information you provide is held confidential for 72 years, after that time, it can be used for genealogical research. If you need help filling out your form, Questionnaire Assistance Centers are available. (Note: If your place of worship is a Questionnaire Assistance Center, please announce the days and hours of operation.)

Let's join together in this important effort. And make sure that our community is represented in the census.



Census 2000 Announcements for Congregations

**This announcement is suggested for
use during the week of April 2, 2000.**

Chances are, you've already received a census form. Please fill it out. It only takes a few minutes. Be sure and include every adult and child living in your home, even if they are not related to you. If you need help filling the form out, call the toll-free number on the form. There are also Questionnaire Assistance Centers available to help.

Responding to the census is very safe.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with the IRS, FBI, Welfare, Immigration or any other government agency. No court of law, not even the President of the United States can find out your answers. And the same law that keeps your answers out of the hands of these agencies, prevents the Census Bureau from selling your address to people who could send you unwanted mail.

Taking part in the census is in your own best interest. People who answer the census help their communities obtain federal funding and valuable information for planning hospitals, roads and more. Census information helps decision-makers understand which neighborhoods need new schools and which ones need greater services for the elderly. But they won't be able to tell what we need if we don't fill out the forms and send them back.

**This announcement is suggested for
use during the week of April 9, 2000.**

Over the past few weeks, you've heard me talk about Census 2000 and how important it is to our community. If you have completed your Census 2000 questionnaire, your community thanks you. If you need help with your questionnaire, call the toll-free number on the questionnaire or go to a Questionnaire Assistance Center. (Note: If your place of worship is a Questionnaire Assistance Center site, please announce the days and hours of operation.)

Let me just remind you of a few of the ways the census affects all of us:

- Federal financial aid to our community and region is based on census information.
- Local planning for roads, schools, day care centers, services for the elderly and other community benefits is based on the census results.
- Our representation in state and local governments, and in the Congress of the United States is based on census population numbers. If you have not completed your form, fill it out and send it back immediately.



**This announcement is suggested for
use during the week of April 16, 2000.**

If you did not complete your census questionnaire, you still have an opportunity to participate. Within the next few weeks, census takers will go to every household that did not return a questionnaire. Census numbers are the ones people turn to when they want to find out about the needs of our community. Let's make sure we send the right message. If you have completed your census questionnaire, we thank you. The census is important and confidential.

**This announcement is suggested for
use during the week of April 23, 2000.**

Some of you haven't filled out your census form yet. And others may be thinking of not answering at all. Later this week census takers will be visiting homes that have not returned their questionnaires. Please give the census takers your full cooperation.

Failure to participate in the census can cost our community more than you realize. Census numbers are used to help determine the distribution of billions of dollars in state and federal funds. You pay your taxes and you have the right to share in the benefits provided by your government's programs. You don't know what our community might gain if we fully participate in the census. But we know exactly what we'll get if we do nothing. Remember the census slogan: This is your future. Don't leave it blank.



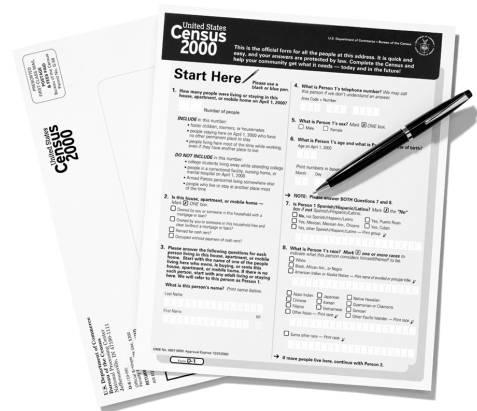
This announcement is suggested for use during the week of April 30, 2000.

For the past few weeks, I have been talking about the importance of the census to our community and encouraging you to participate. I hope you all have filled out your census form, but I'm sure some people in the community have not.

Census takers are visiting homes that have not returned their forms. If you get a visit from a census taker ask them to show you their identification card. Then, please give them your full cooperation.

Remember the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with others, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and the military. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. The law works, millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990s without any breach of trust.

If we don't have a complete census, we stand to lose out on many federal and state programs. So, please cooperate with the census takers.



**This is your future.
Don't leave it blank.**